State/Union Territory	At the end of March, 1998	At the end of March, 1999	At the end of March, 2000
Gujarat	6808	4170	5928
Maharashtra	17925	13373	9115
Daman & Diu	5	13	10
Goa	670	216	161
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	24	46
Madhya	8348	6808	6072
Andhra Pradesh	12074	6260	12461
Karnataka	6680	4342	5416
Lakshadweep	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	12289	11408	11602
Kerala		10074	9017
Pondicherry	431	770	1052
TOTAL	221536	306221	304235

Source: RBI

Agricultural workers in Jharkhand

*258. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the existing agricultural workers in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the welfare measures, if any, Government have initiated for these agricultural workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No such survey has been conducted.

(c) The Government has enacted the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 to protect the interests of workers including agricultural workers. A social security scheme 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-200r has also been launched in two districts of Jharkhand along with other states in the country, covering 5000 agricultural workers from each district this year. The scheme envisages providing Life-cum-accident insurance, money-back, pension & superannuation benefits. Other schemes for the rural workers including agricultural workers like Pradhan Mantri

Gramodaya Yojana, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Gram Samridihi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance (EAS) etc. are also in operation for their welfare.

Purchase of UP Wheat by Punjab

*259. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI KHAGEN DAS:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "UP traders reap floor price" and "Punjab denies having bought UP wheat from traders" respectively which appeared in "The Times of India', New Delhi dated 16th and 17th November, 2001; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, there is no report of distress sale of wheat. Uttar Pradesh is a surplus State in foodgrains and movement of foodgrains to other States is a normal activity, as the entire country is treated as a single food zone. There was record procurement of 24.46 lakh tonnes of wheat in Uttar Pradesh during the period April to June, 2001.

The Government of Punjab has pointed out that no wheat brought from Uttar Pradesh has been procured by State Procurement Agencies in Punjab during or after the Rabi Marketing Season 2001-2002.